(c) whether it is a fact that such tampering is done at the junction box with the connivance of MTNL staff?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) No, Sir. The locking system of electronic exchange is technically fool proof.

(b) No, Sir. The complaints of excessive billing are showing declining trends as may be seen from the data given below :—

Year	Delhi	Bombay
1991-92 . . .	0.38%	0.58%
1992-93 . .	0.37%	0.47%
1993-94 . . .	0.28%	0.32%

(c) Not applicable in view of (a) and (b) above.

Videsh Sanchar Nigam EURO Issue

4393. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to launch Videsh Sanchar Nigam (VSN) Euro issue to attract foreign exchange in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to privatise VSN for this purpose; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Sir, Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (VSNL) has been permitted by the Govt. of India to issue additional equity equivalent to Rs. 20 crores in the international market in the form of Global Depository Receipts.

(b) The road shows for the Euro Issue are currently underway. M/s Solomon Brothers and Kleinwort Benson are the Global Coordinators for the issue. The Euro issue is expected to realise a sum in the range of US $750 million to US $ 1 billion. The proceeds will be used for funding Telecom projects.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Question does not arise in view of reply at 'c' above.

Unearthing Private Telephone Exchange

4394. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that recently a private Telephone Exchange was unearthed functioning in the heart of the national capital illegally in connivance with the MTNL employees;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ;

(c) the losses suffered by MTNL due to this illegal private Telephone Exchange; and

(d) what action Government propose to take to prevent illegal private exchanges coming up in various parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) A group of persons had taken 11 telephone connections at a premises at Hanuman Road, New Delhi and used these telephone lines for providing subsidized international telephone calls. The metering circuit of the telephone lines having STD facility was tampered which resulted in non-billing of the international calls availed on the telephone lines. The suspected telephone lines were kept under observation, the print out of calls made on these telephone lines were studied and surveillance of the suspected location made/kept. Thereafter raids were conducted on 16-2-94 and racket was busted. The case is under further investigation by the CBI for necessary legal action against the racketeers.

(c) Although the Government has suffered losses, assessment of the exact amount of loss is not possible.

(d) Surprise inspections are stepped up and CBI help is being taken wherever necessary. Special investigation cells of CBI are to be set up for metropolitan cities to deal with malpractices. A bill is introduced in Lok Sabha to further amend Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 providing for deterrent penalties against abettors as well as beneficiaries of malpractices like diversion of lines etc.